



## **Mental Health Update April 6, 2007**

### **Review of Advance Directive Policy**

The VSH Policy Committee will be reviewing proposed changes to the VSH Advance Directive Policy on Monday, 11am - 1pm, in the VSH Executive Directors Office. For a copy of the draft policy, please go to:

<http://healthvermont.gov/mh/boards/hospital/hospital-policy-committee.aspx>

### **FUTURES PROJECT**

#### **BISHCA Issues Proposed Decision to Grant the Conceptual Certificate of Need**

On April 2, BISHCA Commissioner Designee, Herbert W. Olson, issued a proposed decision granting the Vermont Department of Health's application for a planning Certificate of Need to replace the Vermont State Hospital. The decision will become final after a public hearing on April 9 to take further input from the interested parties. The proposed ruling contains a number of conditions including: (1) establishing a planning schedule; (2) setting a two-year time frame to accomplish planning and apply for a Certificate of Need ; (3) analysis of alternative site options including possibly consideration of a replacement facility owned and/or operated by the State of Vermont; (4) six-month progress reports; (5) an analysis of the long range perspective of adequate funding needs and sources for the inpatient facility and the community mental health system; (6) consideration of the treatment needs of the Corrections population; (7) an analysis of other state's systems; (8) planning for sufficient number of professional and other trained staff to adequately support the replacement facility; (9) development of cost analyses, and (10) provision of relevant agreements with partner organizations concerning issues of operation, finances, accountability and management responsibilities.

#### **Futures Advisory Work Group**

The Futures Advisory Work Group minutes of March 26 are posted on the website.

#### **Governor Douglas Applauds Opening of Second Spring**

Speaking to an overflow crowd on the porch of the newly renovated Second Spring, Governor Douglas thanked the people of Williamstown for welcoming this community resource for Vermonters with mental illness. In addition to providing a recovery-oriented environment, Second Spring is an economic asset to the town as it already has offered jobs to members of the local community and surrounding area. The Governor applauded the goal of recovery, a key principle guiding the Futures planning process. Indicating his Administration's continuing support for development and implementation of community

residential beds, the Governor emphasized the importance that all Vermonters have the opportunity to recover and be full members of our community and contribute to Vermont's economic future.

Among the 150 people at the open house were newly hired staff of Second Spring who are working hard to prepare for the transition of patients from the Vermont State Hospital, a process that is set to begin in a matter of weeks. State and local officials, legislators, and members of the mental health community were enthusiastic about the facility and its homelike environment.

### **Futures Team Thanks Diane Cota**

The Futures Team congratulates Diane Cota on her accepting the role of Administrative Support Coordinator for the Division of Mental Health. In her new supervisory role, Diane is responsible for the coordination of administrative support functions for adult and children's mental health staff as well as the legal division. Diane replaces Doug Clifton who retired this winter after more than thirty years with the division of mental health.

The Futures Project has been fortunate to have had Diane's help this past year as our administrative assistant but we are happy that all staff will now benefit from her skills and enthusiasm. The administrative support position for the Futures Project is under recruitment.

## **VERMONT INTEGRATED SERVICES INITIATIVE (VISI)**

### **Site Visits**

**The Vermont Integrated Services Initiative** has completed its first site visit as it partners with providers to build their capacity to provide co-occurring services. In April, VISI will initiate its work with Lamoille County Mental Health and Copley Behavioral Health Services. Each provider receives a full day review using an ongoing quality improvement tool, ongoing technical assistance, training, clinical consultation and annual incentive funds for participating.

VISI sponsored a Mindfulness Based Interventions workshop in Southeastern Vermont.

### **VISI Committee Updates**

**The Financial Planning Committee**, a sub committee of the VISI Statewide Steering Committee had its first meeting and began with a review of the barriers to funding co-occurring services. The committee will begin researching ways to overcome these barriers.

**The Executive Committee** of the Steering Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday, April 9th at 2 pm.

**The Clinical Practices Committees** is planning to hold its first meeting in April.

**The Steering Committee** which meets quarterly will hold its second meeting on May 11th in Randolph. A draft agenda will be in next week's Mental Health Update.

### **VISI Peer Program Update**

Friends of Recovery Vermont and Vermont Psychiatric Survivors have held a co-occurring focus group at the Turning Point Center in Barre as well as various levels of support for co-occurring consumer groups around the state. The next focus group is scheduled for April 30th in Rutland.

### **National CoOccurring State Initiative Grant (COSIG) News**

As of March 1, 2007, each of the 17 COSIG states are required to collect the Federal Co-Occurring Outcome Measures. These measures are collected at the provider level. The VISI team will work with each of its participating providers to assist them in collecting this data. The good news is that Vermont will have a much better idea of the numbers of people with co-occurring conditions.

### **VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS**

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 49 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 48.